

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO SOVIET TRIAL

REF: STATE 178559

EARLY PORTUGUESE PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS

PRETTY MUCH FOLLOWED PARTY LINES.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THROUGH ITS NATIONAL POLICY

COMMITTEE, DECLARED: "ONCE AGAIN IT SEEMS THAT THE SO-CALLED

EUROCOMMUNIST MOVEMENT LOSES CREDIBILITY BY THE

INTERPRETATION THE SOVIETS GIVE TO THE HELSINKI ACCORD...

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN PORTUGAL IF THE COMMUNIST PARTY TOOK

POWER?

TOMAS ROSA AND ALAVARO VASCONCELOS, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE SOVIET IMPERIALIST THREAT,

CABLED THE GOP FOREIGN MINISTRY: "THE MOCK TRIALS OF

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEXANDER GINZBURG ARE SERIOUS

THREATS TO DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND ARE DISRESPECTFUL

TO THE HELSINKI ACCORD. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE

FOREIGN MINISTRY TAKE A POSITION CONDEMNING THE TRIALS."

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LEFTIST-ORIENTED MELO ANTUNES, MEMBER OF THE

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, STATED "...I MUST SAY THAT THE

EXPLANATION GIVEN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON THIS

MATTER WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING,

LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS IN FACT A MEANS

TO PREVENT THE EXERCISE OF FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM TO

WHICH SOVIET CITIZENS ARE ENTITLED UNDER THE

HELSINKI ACCORD."

FORMER PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, CLAIMING UNFAMILIARITY
WITH THE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF WHAT HE CALLED
SHALLOWNESS OF PORTUGUESE PRESS COVERAGE, SAID: "ANY TRIAL WHERE
HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT OBSERVED IS POORLY CONDUCTED...WHETHER IT IS
IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES OR IN
COUNTRIES LIKE URUGUAY OR PARAGUAY. LET US NOT THINK,
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT IN THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE
THAT EVERYTHING WORKS IN HARMONY IN ACCORD WITH THE
PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS".
BLOOMFIELD

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